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Subject: Virginia Field Office Technical Guide – Section III – Planning Criteria

Purpose: To transmit the new restructured list of resource concerns and planning criteria for conservation planning.

Effective Date: October 1, 2012

Background: The Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative (CDSI) business team's effort to improve efficiencies has identified the need to restructure the list of resource concerns in Section III of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). Feedback from employees has consistently identified the list of resource concerns as too long to be used efficiently in the planning process and is not supported by usable assessment criteria. In response to these concerns, a restructured list of 31 resource concerns has been adopted nationally along with a formalized process to document potential resource issues that will be integrated with the new planning software.

The restructured list will provide a direct linkage between resource concerns and land cover which will streamline the analysis as well as integrate client objectives and a screening process to minimize the analysis needed by the planner for resource issues on less complex sites. The resource concerns and analysis will be integrated in Conservation Desktop when deployment of the new planning software is initiated.

Explanation: The restructured list of 31 resource concerns has been posted to the VA FOTG in Section III. A new NRCS-CPA-52 has been loaded to the Virginia SharePoint site populated with the restructured list of resource concerns to be used with the planning process.

The legacy list of resource concerns should be used for program application ranking in ProTracts during this transition year. In addition, many new tools and assessments will be available when Conservation Desktop is deployed. During this transition year, continue to use the existing assessments with the legacy list. Guidance on linking or cross-walking between the new restructured resource concerns and the legacy list of resource concerns will be provided to assist in the transition.

Contact: If you have any questions, contact Chad Wentz at 804-287-1668.


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